

THE
NARRATIVE

OF

R. 2. 48²⁰

Col. Tho. Blood,

CONCERNING THE

DESIGN

Reported to be

Lately laid against the LIFE and HONOUR
of his GRACE

GEORGE

Duke of Buckingham.

WHEREIN

Colonel Blood is charged to have Conspired with *Maurice Hickey, Philip le Mar*, and several others, to suborn the Testimony of *Samuel Ryther* and *Philemon Coddan* to swear Buggery against the said Duke.

TOGETHER

With a Copy of the Information exhibited in the Crown-Office against the said Colonel Blood, *Hickey, Le Mar*, and the rest.

published for General Satisfaction.

LONDON, 87...884. CAMBRIDGE.

Printed by R. Everingham at the Seven Stars in Ave-Mary-Lane,
MDC LXXX.

THE
NARRATIVE

OF
Col. Tho. Blood,

CONCERNING THE
DESIGN

Reported to be
Lately laid against the LIFE and HONOUR
of his GRACE

GEORGE
Duke of Buckingham.

WHEREIN

Colonel Blood is charged to have conspired with Justice Hildy, his
wife, and several others, to suborn the Testimony of Samuel
Byder and Pateman Coddan to swear falsely against the said Duke.

TOGETHER

With a Copy of the Information exhibited in the Crown-Office against the
said Colonel Blood, Hildy, his wife, and the rest.

Published for General Satisfaction.

LONDON,

Printed by R. Buxington at the Seven Stars in New-Market-Lane.

MDCCLXX.

NARRATIVE OF Colonel Blood, &c.

AT, or about the third of *January* last, 1679: One *Jane Bradley*, a *Widow*, now and then living at the Sign of the *St. John's Head*, alias, the *Heaven-Tavern* in the *Old-Palace-Yard*, *Westminster* (mentioned in the Narrative that was lately pretended to be *Mr. Blood's* (accidentally seeing *Mr. Blood's* Servant going by, beckon'd to him, and told him that she thought she had heard something related, by nameless Persons, proper for *Mr. Blood's* knowledge, and therefore bad him tell him so, and that she would speak with him about it, when he came that way; which she desired might be that or the next day following; thereupon the Servant hasten'd home to his Masters House, and told him what *Mrs. Bradley* had said.

Within few dayes after *Mr. Blood* calling, desired the said Woman to let him know the meaning of her late message; brought him by his Man *John*. She replyed, and told him, that she had some reason to believe there were some damn'd Designs and Plots under Agitation, tending to the disturbance and interruption of the present established Government; and that she feared the same was as great and dreadful, if not exceeding any that has been yet discovered.

Mr. Blood asked her, with no small surprise and astonishment, why she thought so, and by what Circumstances; why, said she, here were now many Fellows here full other Night, that told me, they had something of great consequence in reference to the welfare of the Kingdom, to be reveal'd; but that they did not know how to

"do it for want of some discreet Person whom they could confide in, and that would manage it and them warily by carrying them before the King and Council. Mr. Blood hearing her say so, suspected that there was something in the matter more than ordinary, and weighing her Apprehensions of the Fellows in reference to the Eagerness wherewith she told him they express their desire of being rid of this Plot (for so they called it) replied, that if she truly thought they were fit to be taken notice of, or knew any secret that might be to the prejudice of the publick good, he would take care so to manage their pretences, as that he would engage to hand them to a suitable Power in order to it's receiving what they had to offer of any kind relating to the discovery of a Plot.

Hereupon, the said *Jane Bradley* prevailed with Mr. Blood to promise to call of her again that Evening at six of the Clock.

Mr. Blood insisted to her upon letting him know, why she desired his calling at that time, because, replied she, "I and they have appointed a meeting about that time in order to their discoursing with him about the business (she not naming him to them.) Accordingly, Mr. Blood came much about the hour, and went into a Room below stairs, and asked whether the two Persons he talkt of came yet or no; she replied, and told him, Yes, they were in the Balcony Room above stairs.

Within a quarter of an hour after the Woman came into the Room where Mr. Blood was, and told him that the said two strange fellows looked so like Rogues, that she was of opinion they came upon the Katch as Traps, for their behaviour, whisperings, and all aspects, made them seem to look no less. "Why, said Mr. Blood, a man may be an honest man, though by his looks he may be thought otherwise, for it's oft-times obvious, said he, that though the Face be the Emblem of the Heart, and that thereby men's measures are usually taken, yet a man may be mistaken sometimes. Nay, replied the Woman, I have some other reason to think them to be such. *Tut* being drinking with them, and telling them that Mr. Blood was the man that they were so discoursing with about being brought to the King and Council. What,

"said one of them, what Blood? is that the Blood that stole
 "the Crown? God damn him, we will have nothing to do
 "with him, for he is a great Friend of the Duke of Bucking-
 "ham's. And a while after understanding that Mr. Blood
 was in the House, and that he was the man that was to treat
 with them (shame take their Craft) they began suddenly to
 be under a resolution different from that of speaking with
 him, as they seem'd before to do if it had been another
 man; for calling up Mrs. Bradley, they asked her whether
 Mr. Blood was come: Yes, reply'd she: Why, said they, we
 have appointed a meeting with other persons this night,
 that we did not think of when we came hither, which we
 must necessarily attend, and desired to be excused for
 that time. "Pray (said Mrs. Bradley) do not disappoint him
 "for he came of purpose, but could not prevail with them.
 Where it is to be rationally supposed that this sudden
 change of their purpose of speaking with Mr. Blood, (who
 Mrs. Bradley intended to have them to, though they knew
 it not) either sprang from faint-heartedness and fear of
 discouraging one against whom they intended to lay snares,
 and ambushes, lest something might drop in by their
 behaviour that might betray their designs, or their
 being there, to be a sufficient Circumstance to
 prove that Mr. Blood was tampering with them; as in the
 conclusion of this Narrative they seem to charge him
 with the doing of. For it is obvious to see that where a
 Guilty Conscience appears, to that power against which it
 has offended, there is scarce need of any Testimony to
 prove the Guilt: for as the saying is, a guilty Conscience
 needs no accuser, which may be properly alluded to
 this circumstance of these two persons altering their
 meeting, as above. But upon parting, Mrs. Bradley, with
 much ado, perswaded one of them to shew himself to
 Mr. Blood, that thereby it might appear they were there,
 and that she did not tell a lye in mentioning that such
 an appointment was to be and not to appear so; who
 when he was passing by where Mr. Blood was, stood in and
 told him, said he, we have a business of great concern-
 ment to discover, but are disappointed and pinched as to
 our present desire of discoursing with you about it, by
 reason (continued he) of another appointment that we
 have made, being at the St. *James's* *made*

made about this hour with others; but upon *Munday* morning next we will take an occasion of waiting upon you again, and communicating to you what we are privy to: and so withdrew immediately, accompanied with some others, supposed of his Confederates, who were also very shy to appear to *Mr. Blood*. This was the first time that *Mr. Blood* spoke to these men, though they seem to make out, in what you shall hereafter see, that he has been in their company, and feasted them, and gave them money several times before.

Upon this passage, *Mr. Blood* not knowing what to think of the matter, or what these fellows might mean by a Plot, or their coming there to discover it, went home immediately; whither within about an hour after *Mrs. Bradley* came and repeating over her former thoughts, and opinion of the two men, in reference to their manner of Gesture, talking both openly, and whisperingly, declared her self satisfied, by what she already saw, they were Rogues and Trapans, and that she did fear, they had some mischievous designs upon him, and therefore bad him to have a care of himself, by laying with all possible dispatch a prevention and stop against any such thing (for this was her Opinion) "How do you think I
"I can do it (replied *Mr. Blood*) for I know nothing of
"them, neither do I know where they live? Why, said
"she, I know, and so told him the Directions left her,
"by *Mr. Curtis*, where their lodgings were. Why what will
"you have me do, replied *Blood* again, to Strangers that I
"never saw before? Do, said she, seize, carry, and get
"them examined before one of his Majesties Justices of
"the Peace, where they must upon a report of this meet-
"ing, and what they told me touching a Plot, give a
"satisfactory account of what they are, and what they
"mean, or are privy to, relating to a Plot.

Hereupon *Mr. Blood* weighing the Consequence of her Advice, and considering how much the same in its Circumstances affected his safety and defence against any eminent Design that might be probably threaten'd him, in preference to the trouble and expence which the finding out of these fellows could expose him to, especially on these dangerous times, when all men Mouths seem to be open

as their Eares, resolved immediately to go in quest of them, and in order thereto, went to Colonel *Walcup*, one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace, who happen'd to be then out of Town. Upon that he went in quest of another, and met with Doctor *Chamberlain*, likewise a Justice of Peace, to whom he communicated the whole passage at large; and told him that the behaviour of the aforesaid two Fellowes towards him appeared so wry-necked (for those were his very words) that he believed they had a Design of doing him some mischief, and that he thought the way to prevent them in it, and the defending himself against harm, was to get them seized and examin'd in order to the forcing them to declare what they pretended to be privy to relating to a Plot or any thing else concerning him, and therefore desired his Warrant so to do, and that he would please to do him the favour to go with him, in regard said he, that it did meerly concern his particular part to be out of the fear of it, as well as the health of the Government said to be aimed at, by what these fellows reported they knew.

Doctor *Chamberlain* condescended to the giving a Warrant for the apprehending of them under the Names of *Philemon Codan*, and *Samuel Ryther*, and was as well out of friendship to Mr. *Blood* as love to the publick good, pleased to go in person himself to find them out taking a long with him, a Constable or two, and a comperent number of Watchmen, and being informed that they lodged, viz. the former at one *Richard Monk* a Dyers House, bearing the Sign of the *Rainbow* at the lower end of *Long Aker*, and the other, viz. *Samuel Ryther*, about the *Soho*, thither he went, and having taken care to speak with them at either place as they came in, after some attendance, seized both at the latter of the said Places, that is at *Rythers* Quarters, about eleven of the Clock at night. After being seized, Doctor *Chamberlain* began to examine them severally, touching the Plot they pretended to be privy to, and which they wanted a Magistrate to reveal to, whereat they behaved themselves with much strangeness and surprize, and very pragmatically and insolently pressed the Justice to let them know what he meant, what the ground of his Apprehension was, or what he had to lay to their Charge? He told them that he heard they were privy to a great and dangerous Plot against the Tranquility of the Government; and that to discover the same, he understood that they did appoint a meeting that Evening about six in order to their revealing the same, to such a person as Mr. *Bradley* did bring them to, but that when they came to the place, appointed, being at the *St. Johns-Head-Tavern*, alias called *Heaven*,

ven, in the Old Pallace Yard Westminster, they ran away without giving any Account of what they pretended to reveal when they came either to Mrs. Bradly or her Friend, and that he understanding it was about a Plot, he came purposely to know and receive what they had to discover of that kind.

Whereat Samuel Ryther started up and protested he knew of no Plot, nor ought like it. The other, viz. Mr. Codan forsooth, being ask'd what the meaning of their meeting at Heaven was, if they had no Plot to discover? To which he replied, that it was about the Duke of Buckingham, who he said owed them both several hundreds of pounds upon Account of Wages, and that they wanted some body that was able to cope with him. How! how! replied one Thomas Curtis, that happened to stand by, why do you say so? Did not I hear you say at such a place, naming it, that you knew of a greater Plot yet undiscovered, than either Doctor Oats or Captain Bedlow ever hitherto confessed; to which they gave no satisfactory Answer.

Then Doctor Chamberlain urged again, that it was not to be expected, that any should be so overseen as to interpose between Masters and Servants about Wages, especially so great a Person as the Duke of Buckingham was, that that could not be the reason of their meeting as was appointed at Heaven, and therefore told them that he could not believe, but that that was an Excuse.

Upon which one of these men (seeing themselves so strictly set, and no other pretence to escape owning that they said they knew of a Plot) starts up, and fell violently upon Damming and sinking himself, in the presence of the Justice, that he would be revenged on the Duke of Buckingham, and that he would swear, and do any thing that could tend to the doing him a prejudice, and that he himself would swear Sodomy against him.

With that Doctor Chamberlain and Mr. Blood perceiving and weighing deliberately that the result of their Cavelling in coherent Replies and Defence, was fictitious, and sprang from their own invention; concludes, that it was scarce worthy their further notice, and therefore the Justice told him of the two that last spake, that he neither did, nor would hear any thing of the matter of Sodomy they talkt of relating to the Duke; and that he was a little unsatisfied with their evasions and quibbling stories, asserting that there was a sufficient Witness by (naming Curtis) who was able to justify that he heard them say they had something to relate touching an Interruption designed to the Government, and therefore pressed them both to be ingenuous, yet to no purpose.

Then Doctor Chamberlain resolving to leave no stone unturn'd,

nor any Circumstance unreported, that could contribute to having our the Truth of the matter from them, asked them jointly why, and what was the reason of their running away at the Call of Mr. Blood, when they appointed to meet at Mrs. Bradshaws at Heaven, without giving an Account of what they came about. Because, replied they, we were diffident and mistrustful of him, why so said the Justice? Why said they, we did not judge him to be a fitting person for our turn, in reference to what we have to offer against the Duke of Buckingham. Why so said he? because replied they, we apprehended by what we heard, that he was the Dukes friend, and if we did trust him he might probably betray us.

Thereupon Doctor Chamberlain taking them for idle Fellows, bad them be gone, but presently upon second Thoughts, directed them to consider of what they had already said, and to attend upon him at his House in Essex-Building on the Munday morning following, where he would receive what, if any thing, they should then have to offer concerning the discovery of a Plot.

Accordingly they came accompanied with Mr. Whittaker, and Mr. Jenks, where Mr. Blood likewise attended, and Doctor Chamberlain asking them over again the meaning of those shuffling Stories they treated him the foregoing Saturday at night with, they replied, they had a further Design to discover and carry on, relating to the welfare and Good of the publick, but would come to no particulars. Whereupon without more ado, Doctor Chamberlain dismissed them and heard not of them for some time after. About the 20th of January, Sir William Waller being returned out of the Country where he then was about this time, took occasion of sending his Man to Mr. Blood, with directions that he would be pleased to come to him, to the Buffs-head-Tavern near the Gatehouse in Westminster, to drink as he thought, a Glas of Wine with him; who presently came, where finding, to his surprize, Mr. Ryther and Mr. Codan, together with Mr. Whittaker and Mr. Jenks in Sir Williams Company, started not so much at their being there (I mean Mr. Ryther and Codan) but at the sudden change of the dress of the said two, who from the degree of Porter-like fellows (for such like, or worse they appeared to be, when they were examined before Doctor Chamberlain) got into fine Rigging, such as neat Clothes, good Perriwigs, new Hats, clean Linnen, Swords and all other Accoutrements answerable, so that Mr. Blood did scarce know them, and so said nothing for a little time.

Alter the drinking a Glas or two of Wine, Sir William began to open the Matter, and told Mr. Blood why he sent for him, and what, that he was very much troubled at the misfortune, he lately

lately brought himself under, and that not only upon the Account of his being a Neighbour, and a long Acquaintance, but for some other Reasons, which he did not think fit then to mention.

What misfortune do you mean, replied Mr. *Blood*, I do not understand you? Why, said Sir *William*, these two Gentlemen (pointing at Mr. *Ryther* and *Codan*, that sat by) are come hither before me, to depose upon Oath, that you as a Confederate have attempted at several times to corrupt them by money, and the prospect of other considerable Rewards, to swear and falsly to accuse and charge his Grace the Duke of *Buckingham* with *Sodomy*. How! What do you mean, replied Mr. *Blood*? what is the matter, I do not know what you say?

Whereat *Philemon Codan* started up, almost disguis'd (for Mr. *Blood* could scarce remember where he saw him, because he got so finely Rigged of a suddain) and said, Mr. *Blood* you would suborn us to swear Buggery against the Duke of *Buckingham*. O shame on you replied *Blood*, can you be so Impudent, as to invent such a thing of Mr. *Blood*, that is a Stranger to you, and who never saw you in his Life, but before Doctor *Chamberlain*, and one time at *Heaven*.

At which Mr. *Fenks* and Mr. *Whittaker* sitting by, jointly interposing, stood up, and took the opportunity of backing him that last spake, and said, come Mr. *Blood* come, as God gave you Reason, Wisdome and Understanding; be honest, and just, and Confess.

Mr. *Blood* being something concerned thereat, replied, saying, you that have been these two years last past employed to asperse Mr. *Blood*, do you appear in such a Game as this, is your Invention no better?

Then directing his Discourse to Sir *William Waller*, askt him what the matter was, or what made those two men run away from *Heaven* without saying of any thing of this kind, and why did they Damme and sink themselves, when they came afterwards before Doctor *Chamberlain*, that they would ruine the Duke of *Buckingham*, by Oath or any other Act that could enable them to reach him. Sir *William Waller* replied, that they said so on Purpose, and in Order to the carrying on a greater Design; further asserting that these Gentlemen (for so they were pleased to call them, were honest men, whereupon Mr. *Fenks* and Mr. *Whittaker* jointly prest, that they meaning *Codan* and *Ryther*, were very honest men, and therefore desired that Sir *William* would be pleased to exercise Justice on Mr. *Blood* in their behalf.

Sir *William Waller* thereat desired Mr. *Blood* with Civility, that he would bring in two persons for his Bail, instancing at the same time Mr. *Tarrant* and another Gentleman, that were friends of Mr. *Bloods*. Mr. *Blood* replied, that he would take time to consider of the validity of his Advice, and wait upon them with the result of what he would resolve upon another time, for such things were not to be done rashly.

Accordingly Mr. *Blood* quitted the Company friendly and went about his business. Next morning he went to Sir *William Waller* to his house, where he found Mr. *Whittaker* and being askt by Sir *William*, have you brought your friends Mr. *Blood* as I desired you, no replied Mr. *Blood* nor will till I know for what, and then desired a Copy of the mittimus that he was to be Committed by, for by that said he I shal be able to know how I shall proportion my Bail.

Upon which Sir *William* begged that he would not proceed according to that method or Course, but follow his directions; and put in Bail. Which Mr. *Blood* persisted in his declining the doing of it, declaring that he would insist upon being treated by him according to the form of Law, and therefore desired to know what he stood charged with, by letting him have a Coppy of his mittimus, which Sir *William* did.

The next day a Constable came to Mr. *Bloods* House in the name of Sir *William* and desired to speak with him, notice whereof being carried to Mr. *Blood*, who happened then to be in bed; he sent his man to Sir *William* to tell him that as soon as he was up, and made an end of some Affairs that he was obliged to see dispatch that morning at Court, he would wait upon him.

Immediately Mr. Blood got up, and went to Court accordingly, and upon his return thence, which was within some small time after, he met a Constable at the upper end of King's Street in Westminster, who desiring him to step into a little lane and Alley that was laid by, told him he had a Warrant of Arrest against a Warrant for a Murther against him from Sir William Waller, and that if he pleased to step into any House hard by, he would follow him, without exposing the passage to the view of any, that upon seeing a Constable in his company might be a proof of his being in trouble; Mr. Blood thereupon went to the Dog Tavern, next door to the Gate-house, which the said Officer followed him, and there told him his Authority from Sir William, which was in the following words, viz. I do hereby

A Copy of the Murther by which Mr. Blood was seized, and to be carried to the Gate-house.

To the Keeper of the Gate-house, Westminster, or his Deputy.

Whereas Oath hath been made by two Witnesses before me, That Colonel Thomas Blood is a Confederate in the late Conspiracy of suborning Witnesses, falsely to accuse and charge His Grace the Duke of Buckingham of

Sodomy, he having refused to give in Bail to appear the next General Sessions of the Peace to be held for the City and Liberty of Westminster to answer the Premises

These are therefore in His Majesties Name upon sight hereof to direct you to take into your Custody the Body of him the said Colonel Thomas Blood, and him safely to keep until he shall be delivered by due course of Law.

Given under my Hand and Seal this 11th day of January, Anno Domini 1679.

While Mr. Blood lay under the restraint of this Murther, (which happened upon Saturday the one and thirtieth of January) it chanced that one of your common Hawkers, among other things, as he went by, cry'd, that Mr. Blood was in the Gate-house; (vide the Print) whereupon it is to be rationally supposed, that Sir William having issued his Murther the day before, being

the thirtieth day of *January*, for the apprehending and carrying away *Mr. Blood* to Goal, by the virtue of the same, and imagining that the Constable did his Duty that day accordingly in laying of him up; the Printer had some how notice thereof brought him, and so dispers'd it. But *Sir William* soon heard of the mistake, for sending upon the said *Saturday*, about three in the afternoon, one of the said Witnesses from the Cock-Ale-House near *Temple-Bar* to *Westminster*, to know of the Constable how he had disposed of *Mr. Blood*; he found the Constable was with *Mr. Blood* at the Dog Tavern, who sending for the Constable into another Room, asked him why *Mr. Blood* was not carried to Prison before that time? Why, replied the Constable, I do not know how *Sir William* can justify me in what I have done; for, said he, when *Sir William* gave this *Mittimus*, I told him, that I durst not carry him to Goal before he was first carried by Virtue of a Warrant before a Justice of Peace, and thence, according as the Crime appear'd, or sworn against him, Committed; and then he told me, that he would bear me out in it, but now I find to the contrary; and besides that, I have opened the Business to two of my Acquaintance, whom I accidentally met with here, and that are now Constables of this Parish, who tell me, that it is in the Power of *Mr. Blood* to bring me under great trouble, for my inadvertency in the thing, which pray go and tell him, and that if *Mr. Blood* hath a mind to go, I neither dare nor will keep him one minute longer in my Custody.

In this interval of time, *Mr. Blood* taking notice of the Passage, and observing that the Constable absented from his Company a good while, and taking notice also, that he was suddenly called for into another Room, to speak with one, and desirous to know who it was, or what the matter might be, sent out one of his Friends to learn who it was, who upon his return brought word, that it was one of the Witnesses against him, that came from *Sir William Waller*, but what his Message or Business was he knew not, but that they were together in the House. Whereupon the said Witness going back immediately again to *Sir William* to tell him what the Constable said touching his incapacity of detaining *Mr. Blood* without a Warrant, the Constable came in to *Mr. Blood*, but did not then tell him the Passage that happened between him and the two Constables about the danger he was in, nor the Message that the said Witness came upon, or that he went back to *Sir William* for a Warrant.

Mr.

Mr. Blood took occasion then of telling the Constable of his inadvertency, and that if he (meaning himself) were a troublesome Man, he could have trounc'd him; how? replied the Constable, and for what? For detaining me here, replied Mr. Blood, unlawfully, for I know what a Justice of Peace ought to do in Cases of this kind; but, says he, as you are a Neighbour, and a civil Man, I scorn to take the advantage of you, thought I might bring my Action at Law against you, and make you pay me so much an hour for false Imprisonment.

This Discourse was scarce at an end, but the Constable was sent for a second time out of Mr. Blood's Company, to speak with this Witness, who was by this time hurried back from Sir William, who presently, when he understood what the Constable said of his not daring to hold Mr. Blood without a Warrant, sent him down with one, dated the one and thirtieth of January; upon the delivery whereof to the Constable the Witness withdrew; and the constable came to Mr. Blood, and told him the whole story, and withal, that just then Sir William sent him a Warrant, and what pass'd between him and the Witness before, and that he did purpose to discharge Mr. Blood without any more ado, had not that Warrant been brought him; acknowledging, that he could not answer his detaining of him so long without it. A Copy of which Warrant, for the Readers further satisfaction, is as followeth, (*Viz.*)

A Copy of a Warrant sent by the Witness to seize Mr. Blood, then actually in hold at the Dog-Tavern, by Vertue of an antedated *Mittimus*.

To all Constables, and other His Majesties Officers Civil and Military.

Chas. m.
dilect. lib.
Westm.
William malle.

W Hereas Oath hath been made by two Witnesses, That Collonel Thomas Blood has been a Confederate in a late Conspiracy of falsely accusing and charging his Grace the Duke of Buckingham, of Sodomy, and has refused to give in Bail for his appearance at the next General Sessions to be held for the City and Liberty of Westminster.

These are therefore to will and require, That you seize and apprehend the said Collonel Thomas Blood, and if he shall refuse to give in Bail, to carry him, and deliver him into

the Hand of Mr. Church, Keeper of the Gate-house in Westminster, according to the Tenor of the *Mittimus* in your Hands;

Given under my Hand and Seal the one and thirtieth of January 1679.

Here it may be most naturally infer'd from the Premises; that there was nothing more aimed at in these Proceedings, than to hurry Mr. Blood to Goal, purposely to bring him all into publick scandal, and then to strip him of the good esteem of his Friends, by turning them all against him; and (to complete their work) to possess Sir William Waller, that Mr. Blood stood guilty of capital offences, such as Conspiracy against the Kings Laws, &c. and therefore fit to be confined, for they lay the knack of the Intrigues for the original meeting of the two Witnesses at Heaven was intended only to serve as a Circumstance of their having seen him there; and accordingly to be made use of by them, when ever they came to prove what they were then employed upon; for when they understood by *Thomas Corbie*, when they first came to Heaven, that Mr. Blood was the Person that was to introduce them to the King and Council, in order to their detecting and divulging the Plot that they pretended to be privy to, exceeding in greatness, as they called it, any that has been yet discovered by Dr Oates or Captain Bedloe, they excepted against Mr. Blood, (though they came thither upon no other score than to furnish themselves with Circumstances) saying, Is not that the Blood that stole the Crown? God damn him, we will have nothing to do with him, for he is too great a Friend of the Duke of Buckingham's. Then to publish in Print, that he was a Prisoner, to the end that the same might be dispers'd over all the Nation and the People possess'd, (especially his Friends) that it was for high misdemeanours, and consequently not bailable, and then for last, because his Reputation should not escape, being gull'd to take him up by a *Mittimus*, on purpose to run him into Prison; and finding that way not to take, then to take him by a Warrant.

After the Warrant was thus brought, Mr. Blood and the Constable continued together till it was about six of the Clock, (for till then no Justice of Peace could be found) when Mr. Blood gave in Bail to the Value of forty Pounds before Sir William Pontney, to answer this monstrous Accusation, for such they made Sir William Waller believe it to be. Within

Within few days after, Mr. Blood happening to meet with one Mr. Burrowes, a Cabinet-seller in the Strand, they both by consent went to the Kings-head-Tavern in Chancery-Lane to drink a Glas of Wine, where being accompanied by one or two more Gentlemen, Mr. Blood, among other Passages, began to mention Sir William VVallers's unkind usage of, and behaviour towards him; whereat Mr. Burrowes ask'd him wherein? Mr. Blood replied, that when he was sent for the other day by Sir William, to give in Bail to answer the Charge sworn against him by the two Witnesses, he ask'd Sir William, do you heed these Fellows? you should rather secure, and lay them by the heels, for they did own before Doctor Chamberlaine; and several Witnesses, that they did run away from Heaven without speaking with him, because they thought he was too great a Friend to the Duke of Buckingham, and that they then swore several times God damn them, they would destroy the Duke of Buckingham, by Oath, or any thing else they could reach him with; and thereupon Sir William ask'd them both at that very instant of time, whether they knew or said any such thing touching the Duke? and that they thereupon acknowledged they said so before Doctor Chamberlaine; yet Sir William did, notwithstanding that, tell Mr. Blood, (touching him on the Sleeve) that they were both honest Men for all this; at which Mr. Blood answered, Then the Devil is honest. Upon which Mr. Burrowes, seeming to be very unwilling to believe, that Sir William could be guilty of so great an error; Mr. Blood, upon his own free accord, sent his Man to see if he could find out Sir William, and if he did, to desire him to come to him to the Tavern, to the end Mr. Burrowes should see and hear Sir William himself own to his face what Mr. Blood said, touching him in this Particular. Sir William being come accordingly, Mr. Burrowes opened the matter, and, by way of reproach, began to charge Mr. Blood with his having scandalized Sir William behind his back, in saying; that he did dispence with the two Witnesses, when he said they were honest Men: I do not know, replied Mr. Blood, that he gave them a Dispensation, or that he did dispense With them; but that I said either the one or t' other, I confels; and then Sir William being ask'd if he said so or no? Yes, replied Sir William, I own I said so; yet it has been since industriously reported, that Mr. Blood took occasion of railing against Sir William VValler before some company; and some Person thereof concerned for Sir William, observing the same,

should send for Sir *William* before the Company broke up, and that when Mr. *Blood* was charged therewith before Sir *William* by that Party who was said to be so concern'd, he should deny it, which Mr. *Blood* is ready to prove if need be; and it is believed Sir *William* himself will own it if need be.

Mrs. *Bradley*, the Woman at *Heaven*, was much about the same time brought upon the same Stage with Mr. *Blood*, and it seems upon the like score; for Sir *William* being jealous that Mr. *Blood* held correspondence with *Thomas Curtis*, sent for her to know how long Mr. *Blood* knew the said *Curtis*; she told him that she thought he never saw him but once, which was before Doctor *Chamberlaine*; whereat Sir *William Waller*, not willing to believe her Answer, told her that she lyed, it was no such thing, but that they corresponded; you may believe me, replied the Woman, if you please, for I do not lie.

Sir *William* not satisfied herewith, on the 30th of *January* charged her with a Constable, and caused her to be brought before him. When she came, he asked her where her Bail was, I have them here, quoth she; who are they? said he; so she told him; but he not liking them, commanded the Constable to do his Duty, and carry her to Goal; the Constable hearing him so say, and knowing her to be a Neighbour, carried her to Mr. *Church* his House, where she continued till next day, when she gave in Bail before Sir *William Pountney* to the value of two Hundred Pounds.

The meaning of this Passage being mention'd here is this. When the two Witnesses came first to *Heaven*, and went up stairs to drink, it happened that one of Mrs. *Bradley*'s Acquaintance, being a Woman-kind, was in the next Room to them, who suspecting them to be Bailiffs, or such like Fellows, (for their outward condition made them look no better) she accidentally listened to know what they might say, or came about. By and by one of them said, How shall we do this? God damn me, said t'other, we will do this Rogue *Blood*'s business for him, and get Oaths enough to swear against him by that time Sir *William Waller* comes to Town.

Upon this Mrs. *Bradley*'s Friend for the present said nothing of the matter to her, but told it the next day to another Friend, who took no notice of it neither at that time. But seeing Mrs. *Bradley* brought under trouble about a fortnight after, as you heard before, both came and told her what the two Witnesses said of Mr. *Blood* when they were above in the Balcony Room,
and

and how they swore they would do Mr. Blood's business, and would find Oaths enough against him by that time Sir William came to Town. Hereupon Mrs. Bradley had both before a Justice, to have them swear the Matter of Fact, which they accordingly did; which Depositions are to be seen in due time. From whence it may be pertinently inferr'd, that the said Witnesses were then brewing what they have since broached in the following manner.

First they frame and contrive, that *Maurice Hickey*, alias *Higgins*, *Robert Smith*, alias *Jones*, *John Haley*, *Thomas Curtis*, *Thomas Blood*, *Edward Christian*, *Arthur O-Bryan*, *Phillyp la Mere*, and *Jane Bradley*, did by unlawful means and ways, between themselves, conspire to rob the Duke of *Buckingham*, not only of his Honour and Reputation, as a Peer of *England*, but likewise of his Life, upon a presumption of his committing Sodomy with one *Sarah Harwood*; and in order to the convicting and condemning him the said Duke of the same, they did invent, that they the said Mr. Blood, and Company afore-mention'd, did agree with two of the said Dukes Servants, namely *Philemon Coddan*, and *Samuel Ryther*, to pay them several hundreds of Pounds, upon condition that they would suffer themselves to be prevailed with to come as Evidences, and swear, when the matter of Fact was brought to a Tryal, that they did hear *Sarah Harwood* declare such and such things against the said Duke; (meaning Sodomy with her, and several others) and that, besides these several Sums of Money thus invented to be agreed upon to be in hand paid, they should engage to secure them the said *Coddan* and *Ryther* of considerable Annuities for Life, and the Friendship of the best Noble-men in *England*, to vindicate them in whatever they did.

That previous to all this, the said Mr. Blood, and the rest of them, should be invented to have expended sundry great Sums of Money upon these two Fellows in Jinkets, Treats, and so forth, before they could be brought to swear to this subornation against the Duke. In manner following, viz. That the said *Philemon Coddan*, and *Samuel Ryther*, should Sign a Paper ready drawn, wherein they were to certify, that they did hear the said *Sarah Harwood* confess and declare before them, that his Grace the Duke of *Buckingham* did forcibly enter both her Privities, as far as he could go, stop'd her Breath, and then sent her away; by which conveyance the King lost his Evidence. That they were further (as they contrived it themselves) to
testifie

testifie, that the said Duke ordered the said *Sarah Harwood* to be murdered, or conveyed to, and sold beyond the Seas, and that he had committed the like on several others, which they were to be ready to prove when called thereto: And that this Instrument should be sent (by direction of Mr. *Blood*, and the rest above-mentioned) by *Maurice Hickey* to a certain place in *Bloomsberry*, where he was to meet with the said *Ryther* and *Coddan*, and being met there, to offer both or either of them that came 300 Pieces of Gold, provided they Signed the foregoing Instrument, and if they did not, to stab them; but if they did Sign, to give them the Gold. That *Ryther* being come alone, and offered the Gold and Instrument by Mr. *Hickey*, he should desire to have a little leisure of perusing and pausing upon it in the next room, and when that, to escape and run away to the Duke of *Buckingham's* Sollicitour, and tell him that he was set upon in such a place by *Maurice Hickey* in the name of himself, Mr. *Blood*, and others to sign that Paper (which he was to bring with him) and take so much Gold for his pains, or else to be killed. And that upon this escape, *Hickey*, thus outwitted, was to say, when he understood by the Woman of the House that he was gone, that he and Partners were undone, and so fled. And the next day after, the better to carry on the Design, without suspicion, to bid 100 l. in the Intelligence to any that could give tydings of this *Hickey*, in the following manner, viz. That whereas one *Maurice Hickey* had tempted one *Samuel Ryther*, a Servant of the Duke of *Buckingham's*, to Sign to a certain Paper, (meaning the foregoing Instrument) containing matters tending to the taking away the Life of his Grace the Duke of *Buckingham*, and that he offered him 300 Pieces of Gold for his condescension thereto; and whereas the said *Samuel Ryther* did not only deny the same, but ran away; and that the said *Maurice Hickey* did thereupon fly, and could not be heard of, then to bid 100 l. in the Intelligence to any that could bring tidings of him to Mr. *Whitaker*.

By this any Man may plainly see, that these Fellows were not idle in carrying on what they damn'd themselves they would, against Mr. *Blood*; when they were over-heard at *Heaven*, where they said we will find Oaths enough to swear against him by that time Sir *William Waller* comes to Town; for when Sir *William* came home, it's worth the Readers notice to remember, how he sent for Mr. *Blood* presently to the *Buffilla-Tavern*, where these Fellows were; how Sir *William* was prevailed with

to press Mr. *Blood* to give in Bail to answer what they swore against him; what halt was made in running him to Prison, by laying hold of him first by a *Mittimus*, and then by a Warrant, as by the foregoing appears; and then to have it declared and cryed about the streets, that he was in Prison, when he was not; and how Mr. *Blood* was disappointed by those Hands who promised to have them forthwith coming before that Justice of Peace in *Westminster* that took examination on his behalf, to answer what he had to accuse them of, but did not: for Mr. *Blood* having examin'd Witnesses before a Justice in the Liberty of *Westminster*, before whom a Conspiracy was proved to be on foot against Mr. *Blood*, and finding that these Fellows were, by the report of the Neighbourhood, fled from their Habitations, he sent a Gentleman of his Acquaintance to Sir *William Waller*, to desire and require of him, that in regard, and for as much as he had promised to take good Security for the forth-coming of the said Persons, and their appearing before that Authority that took examinations on his behalf, when required, he would please to produce them, to the end they might be bound over to answer what ever Charge Mr. *Blood* had to offer against them, and he thereby obtain equal Justice. Sir *William* was pleased to say, that he was not obliged to take any Security for their appearance, nor would he bring them forth, adding, that Mr. *Blood* was unkind for abusing him for his civility, (meaning the Passage touching Mr. *Burrowes*.) Upon this the Gentleman urged, that it was Mr. *Blood's* opinion that he was not over kind to him, who had been so long his Neighbour and Acquaintance, and one by whom he never knew any ill.

To which Sir *William* answered, That he had done his Duty as to the Method wherein he took their Oaths; and as to those Circumstances which he charged him with the neglect of, they must make them out as they can, when the Matter comes to be decided by a Tryal.

Upon this Mr. *Blood's* Friend came back, and gave him an account what passed between him and Sir *William Waller*, and how he denied the bringing forth of the two Persons. It's plainly to be seen from the foregoing Circumstances, that there was no labour spared towards the setting of Sir *William* and Mr. *Blood* by the ears.

Whereupon Mr. *Blood*, not well knowing how to help himself, or what remedy to resort to, at last he went to, and directed Mr. *Thompson* to put them into his Intelligence, in the Words following, *viz. Whereas Philemon Codan and Samuel Ryther,* pretend-

pretended Servants to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham, did falsely asperse Thomas Blood Esq; that he would have suborned them to swear some notorious Crimes against the said Duke, (who now abscond themselves.) If any can give notice of the said Philemon Coddan and Samnel Ryther, unto the said Thomas Blood Esq; at his House over the Bowling-Alley in Westminster, or to Dorman New-man at the Kings-Arms in the Poultry, they shall be well rewarded.

When this was cryed about the streets, and a Reward profered to any that could tell where these Fellows were, one Mrs. Stringer, that keeps a Cup of Ale to sell at the lower end of Long^s Acre, happened to buy the Intelligence, and knowing these Persons, when mentioned, and where they lay, came to Mr Blood's House to let him know where they lay, under hopes, it is supposed, of receiving the promised Revvard; but missing of Mr. Blood at home, left word at his House, that she lived at such a Place, that her Name was Stringer, and that she came to give tidings of Coddan and Ryther, vvhom she heard cry'd in the Intelligence, and that if he came to her, she would tell him more of them.

When Mr Blood heard this, he sent presently to the Woman to let him know vvhhat account she had to give of them. Whereupon she told them he sent, that she knew Philemon Coddan and Samuel Ryther, mentioned in Mr. Thompsons Intelligence, very well, that Coddan lodged in the next House, viz. at Mr. Monkes a Dyer, for some time, that he was indebted to her for Drink, &c. Whereupon Mr. Bloods Friends desired her to let them know, if she could tell vvhether the said Persons lay now? she told them in the City at a Shoemakers in Walbrook; notice vvhereof being brought back to Mr. Blood, he was advised to have her, by Warrant, carried before a Justice of Peace, as also Mr. Monk the Dyer, to be examined touching their knowvledge of these Persons; vvhich he accordingly did, vvhether being both come, Mrs. Stringer gave relation of them both to the following purpose, viz.

The Justice ask'd her and Mr. Monk both, 1st. Whether they knew any thing relating to the Plot? they reply'd, No. Have you ever taken the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy or not? they replyed, Yes. Then you know that those Oaths bind you to be true and faithful to the King; Yes, they knew that, they said: Then the Justice took Mrs. Stringer singly to task, asking her, vvhether she knew Coddan, Ryther, or Hickey? Yes, said she, I know them all three constant Companions together, and that they usually resorted to her Cellar, accompanied great many times by other Irish Men, vvhho were of their Gang, and vvhose Names she

she knew not, though they all together dyeted with her commonly. Have you taken any notice of any discourse they had when they were together? replied the Justice. Why, replied the Woman, when they discoursed about any thing that they would not have me, or the House privy to, they usually spoke *Irish*. And being asked, whether she knew any remarkable thing or passage relating to any of the three under present debate. Yes, said she: What is't? Why, said she, the day after *Hickey* was cryed in the Intelligence, and one hundred Pounds bid to any that could discover him, she espied him go by her door in very great haste, and being indebted to her, she ran after him, and with much ado overtook him in such a Sweat, that every drop that came from him looked as big as a Pea; being overtook, she asked him for the Money he owed her, for, said she, we are very Poor People, and new Beginners, and you would do very well to pay us. Where to Mr. *Hickey* replying, I am, said he, going into the City to Mr. *Coddan*, and though I am disappointed at present, yet it shall not be long before I content you; and not only that, but I will speak to Mr. *Coddan* to do the like for what he owes you.

The next day, being the second day after *Hickey* was cryed in the Intelligence *Coddan* himself came to Mr. *Monkes*, whom he owed Money to also for Lodging, where I happening to see him, quoth the Woman, I went and spoke to him before Mr. *Monk*, and told him, I saw and spoke with Mr. *Hickey*, said she, yesterday about my Money, and he told me that he was going into the City to speak with you: Yes, replied *Coddan*, he was with me yesterday, and told me what you said to him. But, said the Woman, Mr. *Coddan*, I hear that Mr. *Hickey* is in the Intelligence; no, said *Coddan*, you are mistaken, it's another. Whereupon he went away, and called within two days after at Mr. *Monkes* Shop, where I happened to be, said the Woman, and I hear, (continued she to Mr. *Coddan*) that *Hickey* is in the Gate-house, and did not I tell you before, that I was sure it was the same *Hickey* that was cryed in the Intelligence the other day. *Coddan* replied to Mr. *Monk* and she, saying, I was not willing you should take him, because I had a mind to take him my self. Whereupon the Woman told the Justice, that the said *Coddan* owing her Money, she went several times to demand it, but to little purpose; and being lost for some time, she heard at last that he lay in *London*, whither she and her Husband went on a Sunday morning to demand their Debt, not exceeding five Shillings. He reply'd, Damn him, he would pay her no Money, if it were to save her Life from the Gallows, or her Soul from Hell, and so would not pay her one farthing, though he shewed a great quantity of Money

ney that he had about him. At which her Husband went with a Friend to the *Gate-house*, where he found the said *Hickey* with the Campaigne Coat that *Coddan* had on his back, when *Hickey* was in the Intelligence.

Mr. Monkes Confession of his Knowledge of the said Hickey, Coddan, and Ryther, &c.

Mr. Monk, when examin'd, told the Justice, that he always suspected since first he saw them, that *Coddan*, *Ryther*, *Hickey*, and the rest of the Gang were Rogues, that *Coddan* and *Hickey* lay at his House about three Weeks, whither they were resorted to by several other Irishmen, that his opinion was, they could not get their Livelihoods honestly, being sometimes very flush of money, and sometimes none at all; that after *Hickey* was in the Intelligence, he met with *Coddan*, and told him, that *Hickey* was in the Intelligence, for he knew it by the mark of his Hand, and that there was one hundred Pounds bid for the apprehending of him, and that *Coddan* reply'd, he was mistaken, it was none of him, it was another; and *Coddan* calling a day or two after, *Mr. Monk* said to him, Did I not tell you it was the same *Hickey*? I, says *Coddan*, but I was not minded you should take him, for I intended to take him my self.

Further *Mr. Monk* declared, that the said *Coddan* did often tell him about this time that *Mr. Blood* and he did never converse together in their Lives.

When *Sir William Waller*, and some others, heard this, and that *Mrs. Stringer* and *Monk* were with *Mr. Blood* before a Justice of the Peace, and given some report relating to *Coddan* and *Ryther*, he took occasion of going to *Long-Acre*, and happening in hard by the Place where *Mrs. Stringer* and *Monk* lived, *Coddan* sent in his own name for *Mr. Monk* to drink a Cup of Ale with him; accordingly *Monk* came, where he found *Sir William Waller*, *Mr. Whitaker*, *Mr. Feuks* and *Coddan* together. After some discourse, *Sir William* took *Monk* aside, and desired him to tell him plainly what he knew of *Coddan*, *Ryther* or *Hickey*, how long he knew them, and what his opinion was of them, as to their honesty, manner of living, and so forth, to the end, as he seemed to pretend, that if they did *Mr. Blood* any wrong, things might be put to right, and the said Persons exposed to condign punishment, as far as they were found to deserve it. Where to *Mr. Monk* replying, gave him his opinion as he did before when he was examin'd on *Mr. Blood's* behalf, and that withal, he always took them for very loose Fellows, and that little time would discover better what they were, and so bad *Sir William* believe them, and what they said accordingly, for they were idle Fellows in his Judgment.

Here

Here the Reader may, with little trouble, undo the Snare, as well as unriddle the whole Plot laid against the Innocence of Mr. *Blood* and others, if he will but please to consider,

First, the manner of the two Witnesses first coming to the Woman at *Heaven*, what they were over-heard to say against Mr. *Blood*, saying (when they were told by Mr. *Curtis*, that he was the man, that was to treat with them touching what they came about,) *Is that the Blood that stole the Crown? God Damn him, we'll have nothing to do with him, for he's the Dukes Friend.*

Secondly, Their saying at *Heaven*, *How shall we do?* said the same again, *God Damn me! we will do Blood's business for him, and find Oaths enough against him by that time Sir. W. W. comes to Town.*

Thirdly, Their Confession before Doctor *Chamberlain*, where they acknowledged they would have told the Plot to Mr. *Blood* when they met, but that they knew he was the Dukes Friend, and therefore durst not trust him.

Fourthly, How he has been treated by Sir *W. W.* through the instigation of others, and endeavoured to be hurried into Prison, first by a *Mittimus*, and then by a *Warrant*; reported that he was in Prison, when he was not, &c.

Fifthly, How they invented the Paper which was to be signed by *Coddan* and *Ryther*, certifying that *Sarah Harwood* said before them that the Duke of *Buckingham* did so and so with her, &c.

Sixthly, How *Maurice Hickey* should appoint a meeting with this *Coddan* and *Ryther* at a certain place in *Bloomsberry*, where he was to pay them 300 pieces of Gold, in the name of himself, Mr. *Blood*, &c. upon their signing the said Paper.

Seventhly, How when *Hickey* came (as the pretence would make it be believed) *Ryther* only appear'd, where it was so contrived, that when *Hickey* should offer him the Paper to sign, *Ryther* should desire the liberty of considering on it in the next Room, and then like a faithful Servant forsooth, to make his escape, and run to a place hard by, where it is credibly reported his Teachers attended his coming out of such a danger (here is a delivery with a vengeance!) and pretend that one *Maurice Hickey*, and others did tempt him with so much monyes for signing such a Paper, and that if

he did not, they the said *Hickey*, and Company, should stab him; that the said Paper tended to the ruin of his master the Duke, and that therefore it was very Proper to lay the said *Hickey* by the Heels.

Eighthly, That when *Hickey* understood that *Ryther* were thus away, unknown to him as he pretended, he should thereupon tell the Woman of the House, *we are all undone*; for the information, its supposed, of those that waited hard by, who when they should repair where *Hickey* was, upon this alarm carried them by *Ryther*, and that they knew *Hickey* was fled, were to come under pretence of seizing him.

Ninthly, When *Hickey* was thus fled, Mr. *Whitaker* to bid 100 £ in the Intelligence to any man that could apprehend him, and give notice thereof to the said Dukes Attorney, living near S. *Thomas Apostles*. Where to their, viz. *Coddan* and *Ryther's* never to be forgotten reproach, infamy and shame (if they had or have any) it plainly, and undeniably appears, by Mr. *Stringer*, and *Monks* Depositions aforesaid, that every day, both while he the said *Hickey* was so cryed after, and till he was taken, or surrendered, (it matters not which, though the last is the properest and nearest to the matter) that *Hickey* who thus was hunted after, and a 100 £ bid to take him, was every day in the Company of *Ryther*, who pretends to refuse the 300 pieces for signing the Paper, and might tell Mr. *Whitaker* where he was if he listed, *Coddan* might do the same too. And being together, as *Monk* and *Stringer* make it out, *Hickey* might as well then, as at the meeting at *Bloomsberry*, kill *Ryther* if he listed, and *Coddan* too: And if *Coddan* and *Ryther* were such honest men as Mr. *Jenks* and Mr. *Whitaker* said and told Mr. *Blood*, before Sir W. W. they were, they would certainly have shewed themselves such, by discovering *Hickey* to Mr. *Whitaker* gratis, without suffering him to be at the charge of so much money as he publicly bid to any that should take him: But their ill management of it makes it evidently plain, that when the whole matter was to be brought to an issue they did hope to make appear that Mr. *Blood*, &c. were tampering with these two Witnesses before Sir W. W. to charge a false thing upon the Duke; and to make it look the better, so to bring in this *Hickey* and others, who, upon being pardoned (which *Hickey* amongst the rest, is said to have attempted the doing of since

since his confinement) were to become the Kings Evidence, and swear in Conjunction with the rest, that *Mr. Blood*, &c. did tempt them to the Fact, that they otherwise knew nothing of it; that in fine, the whole was a Contrivance to bring an odium upon *Mr. Blood* and his Friends.

Immediately, upon *Mr. Blood's* having them thus cryed after, in *Mr. Thompsons* Intelligence, in order to the bringing of them to that Justice of Peace in *Westminster*, (before whom it was proved that they really Conspired against *Mr. Blood*, &c.) to answer the same, the said two Persons thought fit, about the 16 of *February*, not only to make known where they lay, but in a daring Vindictive manner to publish the better to carry on their business that notwithstanding the many disappointments the Conspirators against the Duke of *Buckingham* have hitherto met with, and the ill success met with by Subornation, yet that the unwearyed endeavours of the Popish Conspirators seemed to find out a new way for aspersing the Kings Evidence, thereby to fend off the hand of Justice, repeating that on the 12th of *February*, *Mr. Blood* with others of his Creatures, sent for *Mr. Thompson* the Publisher of the pretended *True Domestic Intelligence*, and he in his Print offering reward to any that could discover them, they thereupon sent a messenger to know therevvard, and if the reward should be denyed, to acquaint him that they were both ready at their Lodgings in *Walbrook*, and had never absented themselves, though *Mr. Blood* charged them therevwith contrary to his own particular knowledge, and that *Mr. Blood* (after divers messengers sent him to take possession of the two Persons) sent word back that he would not trouble himself further in the business, nor pay any reward. And that thereupon on the *Saturday* following they went to my Lord Mayor, where they complained of the abuse done, not only to them but the Kings Evidence, and prayed His Lordships Warrant to bring *Mr. Thompson* before his Lordship, who being ill, and His Lordship being inform'd how these 2 Gentlemen (for so they call themselves) came to be thus unfortunately hunted after, was pleased on the ensuing *Munday*, to Issue out his Warrant for the apprehending of *Mr. Blood* and some others of his Companions.

How unwilling they were to come out of *London Liberty*, or appear before him who had the keeping of those Depositions at *Westminster*, that were made of these two Fellows
having

our Lord Charles the Second, by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. The Thirtieth, with Force and Arms, &c. at the Parish of St. Martins in the Fields, in the County of Middlesex aforesaid, unlawfully, unjustly, nequitiously, devilishly and corruptly, by unlawful ways and means between themselves, have practised, conspired, intended and designed, to dispoil and deprive his Grace the Duke of Buckingham, then and there one of the Peers and Grandees of this Kingdom of England, not only of his honour, estimation and reputation, but also to take his life away, and destroy his life and dignity of Duke'ship. And to cause the said George Duke of Buckingham, to be taken, arrested and condemned to death, for detestable Crimes and Offences of Sodomy and Buggery, by him supposed to be committed, with one Sarah Harwood, and divers other persons, against the order of nature. And also for enticing or transporting of the said Sarah Harwood beyond Sea, to suppress and take off their Evidences, of and concerning the Crimes of Sodomy and Buggery aforesaid. And that the aforesaid Maurice Hickey, otherwise called Maurice Higgins, Robert Smith, otherwise called Robert Jones, John Hally, Thomas Curtis, Thomas Blood, Edward Christian, Arthur O'Brien, Philip le Mar, and Jane Bradley, to accomplish and fulfill their most impious contrivances and practises, conspiracies, and devilish intentions aforesaid. Afterwards, and divers days and times between the aforesaid seventeenth day of March, in the Thirtieth Year of his now Majesties Reign aforesaid, and the day of taking out this Inquisition at the Parish of St. Martins in the Fields, in the County of Middlesex, Falsely, unlawfully, unjustly, maliciously, nequitiously and devilishly, have solicited, laboured and endeavoured to persuade, procure, suborn, and cause one Philemon Coddan, and Samuel Ryther, then or before Servants of the aforesaid George Duke of Buckingham, for divers great sums of Money, promotions and preferments, against all truth, falsely, unlawfully, unjustly, nequitiously and devilishly, to swear and give in Evidence upon the Tryal of the said George Duke of Buckingham, for the Crimes and Offences aforesaid. That the Crimes and Offences aforesaid were committed by the said Duke of Buckingham; and to induce and cause those the aforesaid Philemon Coddan and Samuel Ryther, to swear, give in Evidence, and prove against him the aforesaid Duke of Buckingham the Crimes and Offences aforesaid. They the aforesaid Maurice Hickey, otherwise called Maurice Higgins, Robert Smith, otherwise called Robert Jones, John Hally, Thomas Curtis, Thomas Blood, Edward Christian, Arthur O'Brien, Philip le Mar, and Jane Bradley, within the time aforesaid, to wit, between the aforesaid seventeenth day of March in the Thirtieth Year of the King aforesaid, and the day of taking out this Inquisition at the Parish of St. Martins in the Fields aforesaid, in the said County of Middlesex. The aforesaid Philemon Coddan, and Samuel Ryther, with Wine, Junkets and other allurements, unlawfully, unjustly, corruptly and devilishly intempered and conjoyned in the prosecution of the Conspiracy aforesaid. And then and there, to wit, within the time aforesaid, in the Parish of St. Martins in the Fields aforesaid, in the County of Middlesex aforesaid, Falsely, unlawfully, unjustly, corruptly, and in prosecution of the Conspiracy aforesaid, have expended divers great sums of money upon the aforesaid Philemon Coddan, and Samuel Ryther, in the whole amounting to the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds, and at their junketting, drinking, and carressing, then and there, within the time, Parish, and County aforesaid, did unlawfully, unjustly, cor-

ruptly, and in prosecution of the Conspiracy aforesaid, promise the said Philemon Coddan, and Samuel Ryther, divers great advantages and preferments, and every one of them promised, that if the aforesaid Philemon Coddan, and Samuel Ryther, would swear and prove, in manner and form aforesaid, the Crimes and Offences aforesaid, to be perpetrated by him the aforesaid George Duke of Buckingham. And further, the Jury aforesaid present upon their Oaths, that the aforesaid Maurice Hickey, otherwise called Maurice Higgins, Robert Smith, otherwise called Robert Jones, John Haley, Thomas Curtis, Thomas Blood, Edward Christian, Arthur Obrian, Philip le Marr, and Jane Bradley, afterwards, to wit, between the seventeenth day of March, in the Thirtieth Year of the King aforesaid, and the day of taking this Inquisition at the Parish of St. Martins in the Fields aforesaid, in the County of Middlesex aforesaid, falsely, unlawfully, unjustly, corruptly, devilishly, and in prosecution of the Conspiracy aforesaid, have given, deposited, and paid down to the aforesaid Philemon Coddan, divers sums of money, amounting in the whole to Forty pounds of lawful money of England, for and towards the maintenance and encouragement of the said Philemon Coddan to go forward, compass and perfect their wicked, unlawful and devilish machinations, practises and intentions aforesaid. And that the aforesaid Maurice Hickey, otherwise called Maurice Higgins, Robert Smith, otherwise called Robert Jones, John Haley, Thomas Curtis, Thomas Blood, Edward Christian, Arthur Obrian, Philip le Marr, and Jane Bradley, afterwards (to wit) within the time aforesaid, in the Parish of St. Martins in the Fields, in the County aforesaid, falsely, unlawfully, unjustly, wickedly, corruptly and devilishly, in prosecuting the Conspiracy aforesaid, did assume upon themselves, and faithfully promise to the aforesaid Philemon Coddan, that he the said Philemon Coddan should have the friendship and respects of some Peers, and men of Power and Degree; And also should have a Place or Office in and about the business of the Customs of our Lord the King, now called a Land-waiter's place, of the yearly value of two hundred pounds, and the sum of fifty pounds in money ransomed, and a certain maintenance during his life; as he the said Philemon Coddan would swear and give in Evidence, that the Crimes and Offences aforesaid, were perpetrated by the aforesaid George Duke of Buckingham, in manner and form aforesaid. And further the Jury upon Oath say, That the said Maurice Hickey, otherwise called Maurice Higgins, Robert Smith, otherwise called Robert Jones, John Haley, Thomas Curtis, Thomas Blood, Edward Christian, Arthur Obrian, Philip le Marr, and Jane Bradley, afterwards (to wit) within the time aforesaid (to wit) within the aforesaid seventeenth day of March, in the thirtieth year of the King aforesaid, and the day of the taking this Inquisition, at the Parish of St. Martin in the Fields aforesaid in the said County of Middlesex, falsely, unlawfully, unjustly and devilishly, in prosecution of the Conspiracy aforesaid, have given, deposited and actually paid to Samuel Ryther, divers other sums of Money, amounting in the whole to fifty pounds, for and towards the maintenance and encouragement of the aforesaid Samuel Ryther, to prosecute and compass their wicked, unlawful designs. And that the aforesaid Maurice Hickey, otherwise called Maurice Higgins, Robert Smith, otherwise called Robert Jones, John Haley, Thomas Curtis, Thomas Blood, Edward Christian, Arthur Obrian, Philip le Marr, and Jane Bradley, afterwards (to wit) within the time aforesaid (to wit) within the aforesaid seventeenth day of March, in the aforesaid thirtieth year of our now Lord the King, and the day of taking of this Inquisition

at the Parish of St. Martins in the Fields aforesaid, in the said County of Middlesex, Falsly, unlawfully, wickedly, corruptly, devillishly, and in prosecution of the Conspiracy aforesaid, have taken upon them, and faithfully promised the said Samuel Ryther, that he, the aforesaid Samuel Ryther should have the Friendship of some Peers, and men of great Estates and Degree, as also a Place or Office in or about the Custome House Busyness of our Lord the King, as also money to redeem his Estate Mortgaged by him the said Samuel Ryther, being above three hundred pounds. And three hundred pounds more, if he the aforesaid Samuel would Swear and give in Evidence against the aforesaid George Duke of Buckingham, in manner and form aforesaid, that the Crimes and Offences aforesaid were committed by the aforesaid George Duke of Buckingham. And the Jury, further say, upon Oath, that the aforesaid Maurice Hickey, otherwise called Maurice Higgins, Robert Smith, otherwise called Robert Jones, John Haley, Thomas Curtis, Thomas Blood, Edward Christian, Arthur Obryan, Philip le Marr, and Jane Bradley, Afterwards (to wit) within the time aforesaid (to wit) within the seventeenth day of March in the thirtieth year of the King aforesaid, and the day of taking this Inquisition at the Parish of St. Martins in the Fields aforesaid, in the County of Middlesex aforesaid, Falsly, unlawfully, unjustly, wickedly, corruptly, devillishly, and in prosecution of the Conspiracy aforesaid, and in Order to fix and secure them the aforesaid Philemon Coddan and Samuel Ryther to perform and execute their malicious devices, practices and conspiracies aforesaid, have made, composed and writ, and caused to be drawn and writ a certain false and scandalous writing in Paper. The Tenor of which Writing follows in these English Words and Figure following. Whereas Samuel Ryther and Philemon Coddan Gentlemen, in St. Martins Parish in the Fields, do hereby confesse and declare, That Sarah Harwood of the City of London, Gentlewoman, did confesse before us, That the Lord Duke of Buckingham was with his Privy Members as far in both her Privy Parts as he could go with forcible entrance, stopping her Breath, and that the said Lord Duke of Buckingham hath since conveyed the said Sarah Harwood out of the way, by which means the King lost his Evidence. And do further declare, That since that time, the said Duke did order the said Sarah to be murdered, and since the time is murdered or sold beyond Sea. And do further declare, That the said Duke hath committed the said Sin of Sodomy, with several more, which we are ready to prove, when we are required as the Kings Evidence. Witness our Hands this 12 day of Jan. 1679. And notwithstanding all and singular the Matters in the said Writings contained, were and still are altogether false and scandalous and untrue, yet Maurice Hickey, otherwise called Maurice Higgins, Robert Smith, otherwise Robert Jones, John Haley, Thomas Curtis, Thomas Blood, Edward Christian, Arthur Obryan, Philip le Marr, and Jane Bradley, afterwards (to wit) within the time aforesaid (to wit) within the seventeenth day of March, in the aforesaid thirtieth year of the King, and the day of taking of this Inquisition at the Parish of St. Martins in the Fields aforesaid, in the County of Middlesex aforesaid, unlawfully, unjustly, wickedly, corruptly, devillishly, and in prosecution of the Conspiracy aforesaid, against the aforesaid George Duke of Buckingham's Life, Estate and Honour, this writing in Paper to the said Samuel Ryther, then and there did produce, shew and offer, and every one of them then and there unlawfully, unjustly, corruptly, wickedly, devillishly, and in prosecution of the Conspiracy aforesaid, hath produced, shewn and offered

the aforesaid Note of the aforesaid Samuel Ryther. And then and there falsly, unlawfully, unjustly, wickedly, corruptly and devillishly in prosecution of the Conspiracy aforesaid, did offer and promise to give to the said Samuel Ryther a Purse of Gold, containing three hundred pieces of Gold, of the value of three hundred pounds, and every one of them did then and there promise to give, if he the said Samuel Ryther would sign and subscribe the aforesaid Writing with his own Name and Hand, which the said Samuel Ryther then and there refused to do. All which contrivances, conspiracies, subornations and unlawful practices of the aforesaid Maurice Hickey otherwise Maurice Higgins, Robert Smith, otherwise Robert Jones, John Haley, Thomas Curtis, Thomas Blood, Edward Christian, Arthur Obryan, Philip le Marr, and Jane Bradley, tend to the great hazard of the Life and destruction of the aforesaid George Duke of Buckingham, and the manifest perversion of the Justice of this Kingdom of England, to the ill example of all others in the like Case transgressing, and against the Peace of our Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity.

When Mr. *Blood* smelt of this Indictment, and that for proof of the Contents thereof, it was reported that it was given out by Mr. *Christian* and others concerned, that among other Places of consultation: The Crown in *Ram Alley* in *Fleestreet*, and the Bear in *Holborn*, both Victualling Houses, were said and nominated; and that Mr. *Blood*, and Mr. *Christian* have consulted in those two places, as well as treat the said two Persons with money, Treats, Junkets and other encouragements, and large plights and promises of preferment, &c. in the Custom-House, in order with the more ease to prevail with them to be suborned as Witnesses in this matter. He carried with him five substantial people and went to both places (for well he might without blush, innocent man) and directed the said five people to examine whether they knew of Mr. *Blood*, or ever saw him with any body there: to which the people reply'd, (as well they might) No; Do you know him? no, said they: did you ever see this man here said they, pointing at Mr. *Blood*? no, never in our Lives. All which he is ready to justify, when need is: Besides it is very well known, that this Mr. *Christian* and *Blood* could never to this day lay up their Horses together, as the old saying is, so that it is very improbable that he should coast with one in an Intreguer of this make, to whom he always grudged the civility of drinking either publicly or privately. Furthermore, if any House in *London* or *England*, of any good repute, can say or give any Testimony that he has ever seen Mr. *Blood* and these Fellows together, in company of Mr. *Christian*, by himself, or all three together, Mr. *Blood* will contentedly acquiesce under the severest censure.

To come to my L. Mayors Warrant, when his Lordship issued it for the apprehending Mr. *Blood*, & others of his Crew, pursuant to the complaint of *Coddan* and *Ryther*, it was reported (you may imagine by whom) that Mr. *Blood*, nor the other Persons of Mr. *Blood*'s company, said to be mention'd therein, durst come into his Lordships Liberty for fear of being taken up. When the same came to be understood by one of the Parties, he presently went into the City, and having waited some short time about his Lordships house, he was introduced to his Lordship, and told his Lordship that hearing it spread abroad, that he issued a Warrant against him, he was come to know of his Lordship what it was for. I do (Replied my Lord) Issue a great many War-

Warrants, that I do not remember who they are against. Why, replied *Blood's Friend*, reading in the *Intelligence* that your Lordship had a Warrant against Mr. *Blood* and Friends, I thought it might be my self; whereupon my Lord sent his Clerk to know whether by his Entries any Warrant appeared issued against one of that name; who went accordingly, and brought word that he did not find any, and when there is, said the Clerk, I'll send word. I lodge, replied *Blood's Friend*, at *Graves-Inne*, and if there be, or when there is any thing of this kind against me, I'll wait upon your Lordship, if I am sent for. I do not usually concern my self, replied my Lord, with any out of my Liberty; and so went away.

A day after, Mr. *Blood* sent one *Comings* an Attorney to my Lord, to know, if his Lordship had issued any Warrant lately against Mr. *Blood*, and if he did, he came in Mr. *Blood's* name to know what it was for. To whom it was replied, by another of his Lordships Clerks, there was one issued against Mr. *Blood* three dayes before, together with one *John Burry*, and one *Fooks*.

Few dayes after, Mr. *Whitaker* took the liberty of spreading about the City that Mr. *Blood* and Friends, having heard of a Warrant that was out against them from my Lord Mayor, durst not come into *London*, as they usually did, for fear of being imprisoned, reporting at the same time that he had the same in his Pocket. This report being boasted about in the *Coffee-Houses*, and particularly in one Mr. *Combe's*, where one of Mr. *Blood's* particular good friends happened to be, the Friend replied, protesting he did not believe it, and that if Mr. *Blood's* Friend did decline coming into *London* upon that score, he would never own him; and withal said, I'll warrant his coming, and being there, notwithstanding all this, to day or to morrow.

Mr. *Blood's* Friend hearing this, as also that Mr. *Whitaker* offered Mr. *Combes* the Coffee-man, half a Crown in Money, to drink a Bottle of Sack with, conditionally that he would tell him where Mr. *Blood's* Friend was, if he was then in the City, or send him word when he came there; whereupon Mr. *Blood's* Friend hearing this, left word that he did not fear either Mr. *Whitaker* or his Warrant, and that if he had any thing to say to him, he was there to answer him. and, said he, I am going to the *Crown-Tavern*, where I'll stay some time, which pray tell him if you see him this afternoon.

To make short, by and by in came Mr. Whitaker, and afterwards his Man. Mr. Whitaker enquiring after Mr. Blood's Friend, Combes told him, that he was hard by. Where? said Mr. Whitaker; nay, said Combes, let me have the Half-Crown first, which he accordingly did, but with seeming anger: then he told him where he was. Whereupon Mr. Whitaker lent his Servant with my Lord Mayor's Warrant, who asked him, whether he would please to go before the Lord Mayor? No, said he, I may go before any other Justice of the Peace, for, said he, your Warrant is not Special; then one that stood by advised him to go before Sir William Turner, and another to another: Well, said Mr. Blood's Friend, I do not care if I go before my Lord, I'd as live go before him as any other, especially upon this, in regard he took these People's Examination, and therefore Sweet-heart, said he, go and bring a Constable: will you not go with our one? replied the Servant, Well, said the Servant, I'll go and tell my Master, and come again. Well, said Mr. Blood's Friend, now 'tis half an hour past Four, I'll stay till Five for your Master, and no longer, and if he comes within that time, I'll go with him before my Lord. Whereupon the Servant went to his Master, and at the time appointed came back again, and asked whether, or no he would go before my Lord? No, said Mr. Blood's Friend, nor without a Constable. Well, said he, my Master then must take another time and opportunity.

Thereupon Mr. Blood's Friend stood up and said, Your Master has here, said he, given Mr. Combes Half a Crown for a Bottle of Sack, to let him speak with me when I came to the City, and see I dare do it: But, said he, tell your Master that in recompence I'll give you five Shillings to buy a pair of Gloves, and spend fifteen Shillings upon him, provided he will bring Coddan and Rither to Westminster, to answer Mr. Blood's charge. And besides, tell him farther that if he be the Duke of Buckingham's Solicitor, I am Mr. Blood's Solicitor. So that it is plainly seen they wanted only Mr. Blood in the City, to lay him in Pickle.

To the foregoing Narrative it may be without digression added, that at the bursting out of the late Device, called the Presbyterian Plot, discovered by Mr. Dangerfield, and broached at the Lodgings of Colonel Rotherick Mansell in Ax-mard Westminster it was fully reported that Mr. Blood did combine and conspire with some Persons in the World to enslave and entangle the Professors of the true Protestant Religion, in a Plot laid against the Government,

and that then he was to be by his own consent Seized upon; Tried for his Life; and then upon getting his Pardon; to be againe the King's Evidence by betraying several Presbyterians; which he was said to be concerned within the said Conspiracy. And that consequently he apprehends himself under some ill treatment with some of his best friends in England, &c. to whom the same is said to be reported for a real truth. The matter of Fact was as follows; viz.

When the late Parliament was dissolved, and our present one called to succeed it, it fell out, that one Thomas Curtis was then employed by some Power or Authority to carry down Writs into the Country to Sheriffs, to chuse new Parliament Members. This Mr. Curtis being returned from his Errand, and calling at Heaven, whether he usually resorted in Term and Parliament time, as being an old acquaintance of James Bradley in his life-time, Mrs. Bradley, the said J. Bradley's Widow, asked his Opinion, in reference to his thinking whether the approaching Parliament would sit at the appointed time or no, for it highly concerned us, continued she, that live hereabouts, to have it sit, if it were for no other Good but the Custom and Trade it brings, (for her lively hood depended much upon it.) Truly, replied Curtis, I know nothing of its Sitting, neither whether or no it continues Sitting when it meets. I am sorry in my Heart, said she, that you can give me no better hopes, for we shall be ruined for want of Trade. This after some further discourse to that purpose, she said Curtis whisperingly told her, that he heard there were Commissions a giving out: how? quoth she, how comes that? who has them a giving? said he, Mr. Blood is one that has Commissions to give out. And with that they both parted, being Saturday Night.

When he was gone, she began seriously to consider of what could be the matter or meaning of giving out Commissions, and could not purge her thoughts thereof all that Night; and observing Mr. Blood mentioned; as also that he was a Friend to the King, and sinking deeper into the thing, wondered what it should be, and therefore at last thought fit to send for Mr. Blood, to acquaint him with it, (though she never had the exchange of one word with him in her lifetime before.)

Mr. Blood

Mr. Blood after twice sending, did happen to neglect coming to her, till the Tuesday following, as judging it was upon the score of some frivolous errand that might tend to the beguiling his Custom to her House, came at last, and desiring her to tell him the business, she rehearsed what passed between her and Chris, and that she doubted that tho' she knew Chris as her Husband's acquaintance, yet she did not know what his heart might be, and that she therefore sent for him, to give him satisfaction as became a Neighbour.

Whereupon Mr. Blood paused a little, and began to think what to do in the case; but at last resolved to go to some friends for their advice and directions, what to think of as a defence against the ill effect or ill of such a report as that seemed to threaten. And finding that it was impossible for any judgment or Scrutiny to detect or explain the meaning of it without some time to consider on, advised him to pass it by, which he accordingly did; but now understands it by the foregoing Narrative.

It is credibly reported, that notwithstanding the strictness with which Master Blood has been committed to the care and custody of the Council, with prohibition that none should be suffered to speak with him; but that he should be kept close Prisoner till due delivery. Yet one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace is said to have contrary thereto carried him thence to Tavern, and other publick Houses at unreasonable hours of the Night, furnished him with Money, and returned him back again some times at 1, 2, 3 and 4 the next Morning. And Mr. Blood being told that the same was in order to the suing out his pardon, and escaping the punishment justly due to his Treachery to Mr. Blood, by becoming an evidence to put a Crave thereto, in the proper Office.

When he was gone, the began seriously to consider what could be the manner or meaning of giving one Commis- and could not purge her heart of all that Night, and observing Mr. Blood mentioned, as also that he was a friend to the King, and thinking deeper into the thing, wondered what it should be, and therefore at last thought fit to send for Mr. Blood to acquaint him with it (though she never had the exchange of one word with him in private before).

